

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 27-40 are pending in the application.

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of receipt of the foreign priority papers.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return a signed and initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 which was submitted with the July 16, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The office action states that in claims 1, 22, and 30, it is unclear where the preamble begins or ends because of the use of the term "characterized."

By way of this amendment, use of the term "characterized" has been deleted from the claims. In addition, the claims have been placed into more customary U.S. style.

It is thus respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By



Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371